

In the Matter Of:

DWAIN EDWARD THOMAS vs

KEVIN STITT

ADAM LUCK

July 26, 2024



19

1 who is currently incarcerated -- incarcerated in DOC."

2 Correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q When I say "JLWP inmate" today, it will mean an
5 individual or individuals serving a JLWP sentence who is
6 currently incarcerated in DOC. Do you understand that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And if at any point you need a reminder of this
9 definition as well, just ask and I'll provide it. Okay?

10 A Okay.

11 Q When you were appointed to the PPB, did you
12 receive any training related to JLWP inmates?

13 A I don't receive -- I don't recall receiving
14 specific training on individuals serving that sentence.

15 Q What about training regarding how to consider the
16 age of the inmate at the time of the underlying offense?

17 A I think that was one factor that was covered in
18 our training where we discussed dynamic factors and static
19 factors, meaning things that can change in consideration of
20 someone's parole and things that can't change, and age
21 being one of the things that cannot change, and how to
22 consider those different factors as we make parole
23 decisions.

24 Q While you were on PPB, did you receive any
25 training about JLWP inmates?

20

1 A I don't recall receiving specific training on
2 that, no.

3 Q What about training while on the board about
4 whether to consider the age of the inmate at the time of
5 the underlying offense?

6 A I would give the same answer that I did to your
7 previous question about dynamic and static factors.

8 Q Please scroll to PDF Page 8.

9 There's an exhibit attached to this notice. It's
10 marked as Exhibit 1. Do you see Exhibit 1 on your screen?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Let's scroll to the second -- the next page, PDF
13 Page 9.

14 Exhibit 1 is the Complaint in Plaintiff Thomas's
15 lawsuit against Defendants Stitt, State, Seigfried, and
16 Hastings, correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you've read this whole document as you
19 previously represented, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And that includes this Complaint exhibit?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And you received this Complaint when you were
24 served as part of this litigation, correct?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q So as chair, you were not involved in setting
2 trainings for the PPB members, correct?

3 A No.

4 Q And did you discuss with Bates in those meetings
5 specific inmates up for parole vote?

6 A No.

7 Q We were just talking before this about drafting
8 PPB policies.

9 As chair, did you have any involvement in
10 drafting the PPB policies?

11 MS. BRIGIDA: Asked and answered.

12 THE WITNESS: I did not.

13 Q (BY MS. CHIANG) If you thought a policy should
14 be revised, how would you communicate that?

15 A That would be brought up in the new business
16 section of the meeting in the open meeting.

17 Q And that is part of the meeting -- that is part
18 of the PPB meeting, correct?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And any of the PPB members could bring that up,
21 correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Can anyone else at the meeting bring that up?

24 A Bring up new business?

25 Q Yes.

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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Time is 10:22 a.m. We
2 are back on the record.

3 Q (BY MS. CHIANG) Before we took our break, we
4 were discussing formal interviews you had with the
5 governor, vis-a-vis your appointment to the PPB board,
6 correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And we discussed that you probably had one
9 meeting with the governor -- one formal interview with the
10 governor for your PPB board membership, correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What do you recall discussing at that formal
13 interview?

14 A I don't -- I don't recall. I imagine we talked
15 about my experience on the Board of Corrections. I
16 don't -- I don't recall specifics of what we discussed in
17 that meeting.

18 Q Did you and Governor Stitt talk about the PPB
19 board's functions?

20 A I don't recall specifically, but that would make
21 sense for us to discuss that.

22 Q Did you talk about how your experience on the
23 Board of Corrections would affect or bring experience to
24 your time as a PPB member?

25 A I don't believe so.

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1 Please scroll down.

2 That's the first two pages.

3 Q You're done?

4 A With the first two pages, yes.

5 Q Great.

6 Do you recognize this document?

7 A Yes.

8 Q This is the Pardon and Parole Board Meeting
9 Minutes from October 2019, specifically Monday,
10 October 7th, 2019, correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And is this a true and accurate copy of these
13 parole board meetings from October 7th, 2019?

14 A As far as I know.

15 Q I just want to ask you a couple questions about
16 this.

17 Do you remember who was present for this meeting?

18 A Based on this document, all board members were
19 present.

20 Q Who is Robert -- and correct me if I'm
21 pronouncing this wrong, I very well -- very well may be --
22 Gilliland?

23 A It's pronounced Gilliland.

24 Q Okay. Gilliland. Thank you.

25 Who is that?

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1 A He's the former chair of the Oklahoma Pardon and
2 Parole Board.

3 Q Was he the chair immediately preceding your
4 tenure as chair of PPB?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And Allen McCall, Larry Morris, Kelly Doyle, they
7 were all PPB members?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And is this Kelly Doyle the same Kelly Doyle you
10 testified earlier as having served with you on the board
11 for you on the board of trustees for another organization?

12 A No, Kelly Doyle did not serve on the board of
13 trustees of the Center For Employment Opportunities. She
14 was employed there.

15 Q Okay. So this is the same Kelly Doyle who was
16 employed there while you were on the board of trustees,
17 correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And if we go down two lines, the staff present
20 for this meeting are Melinda Romero, Justin Wolf, and
21 Jennifer Pando, right?

22 A That's not what I see on the screen.

23 MS. BRIGIDA: We're on Wednesday,
24 October 9th, so we just need to be on the October 7th.

25 Q (BY MS. CHIANG) So on this first page, you see

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1 the staff listed as Melinda Romero, Justin Wolf, and

2 Jennifer Pando, correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And they were at that meeting, then, correct?

5 A Based on this document, yes.

6 Q Who is Justin Wolf?

7 A He's the former general counsel for the Oklahoma

8 Pardon and Parole Board.

9 Q What was his role during the PPB meeting?

10 A He was the general counsel.

11 Q And you said he's the former general counsel. Is

12 he still at PPB?

13 A No.

14 Q Was he still there at the time of your departure?

15 A No.

16 Q Who is Jennifer Pando?

17 A She was part of the administrative staff. I

18 don't know what her title was.

19 Q And what was her role during the PPB meeting?

20 A I don't know what her title was. I don't know

21 how she assisted in the meetings.

22 Q And was she still there at the time of your
23 departure?

24 A I don't recall.

25 Q And then who is Melinda Romero?